

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 058851

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, US, (TIOULONG, NHIEK)

SUBJECT: KHMER PATRIOTS COMMITTEE

1. FYI: DEPARTMENT WAS APPROACHED BY ROBERT WEBB, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF CINCINNATI INQUIRER MARCH 13 IN ORDER TO PASS A MESSAGE FROM FORMER SIHANOUK ASSOCIATE GENERAL NHIEK TIOULONG. WEBB WAS APPARENT CONDUIT BECAUSE MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE IN PARIS WAS ASKED TO FIND A CONTACT IN WASHINGTON. TIOULONG, ACCORDING TO WEBB, ON BEHALF OF 'KHMER PATRIOTS COMMITTEE' WISHES TO APPROACH POLICY LEVEL OF USG TO ACQUAINT IT WITH POSSIBLE ACCOMMODATION PRESUMABLY BASED ON TIOULONG-SIHANOUK CORRESPONDENCE. WEBB FIRST APPROACHED CONGRESSMAN LEE HAMILTON (D-INDIANA) CHAIRMAN OF HFAC SUBCOMMITTEE DEALING WITH CAMBODIA AID REQUEST BECAUSE HAMILTON WAS SUBSCRIBER OF HIS PAPER. HAMILTON PUT WEBB IN TOUCH WITH DEPARTMENT BUT INDICATED HE WOULD MEET TIOULONG AND ASSOCIATES IF THEY COME TO WASHINGTON.

2. WE HAVE TOLD WEBB THAT TIOULONG IS WELL KNOWN TO US,
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THAT WE ARE AWARE OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND THAT WE BELIEVE

HE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZED SPOKESMAN FOR SIHANOUK. WE INDICATED THAT TIOULONG HAD ALREADY SPOKEN (THROUGH HIS WIFE) WITH FSO MARK PRATT IN THE PARIS EMBASSY AND THAT ANYTHING HE HAD TO SAY TO PRATT WOULD BE FAITHFULLY TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT. NEVERTHELESS, IF TIOULONG WISHED TO COME TO WASHINGTON HE WOULD BE RECEIVED AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL. DEPTOFF STRESSED TO WEBB THAT THIS WILLINGNESS WAS NOT TO BE CONSTRUED AS AN INVITATION. WEBB WHO RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD REPORT TO HIS FRIEND IN PARIS, SAID THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED SOME DOCUMENTS IN FRENCH FROM THE SAME SOURCE WITH A REQUEST TO PASS THEM TO SENATOR MANSFIELD. MANSFIELD RECEIVED THEM AND WHEN ASKED ABOUT DISTRIBUTION IN THE DEPARTMENT ASKED THEY BE GIVEN TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB. WEBB GAVE THEM TO DEPTOFF. INGERSOLL

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